

QUEER STORY.

nothing in life easier
on. A little knowl-

"Libel the Great Indian Remedy—it's the same thing. I bring my action against you. For obvious reasons, each of us conducts his own case, and if we don't puff ourselves and the *Spectator* and the Remedy on a scale previously attempted, each has no chance."
"What about costs?" asked Frupp, impressed in spite of himself by the idiom.
"Costs won't come to much. No counsel's fees, you observe. As for the rest, if you win, you are all right. If you don't I give you beforehand any security you like for the amount of your costs."
"And suppose you recover damages?"
"I shall then get for heavy damages—only want to vindicate my character and clear the reputation of the Remedy. But, in case they give me a verdict, we can have no agreement before we begin, which will cover costs and damages too, if you like, so as to make you safe."
Fripp considered. He was fully alive to the value of a sensational libel suit, and Mr. Frupp's plan seemed to offer all the advantages, with a minimum of risk and cost. Besides this, he was growing desperate under the failure of his venture, and felt that he could afford to miss no chance of bringing the *Spectator* before the public.
He therefore condescended to discuss the proposal at some length, and before they parted, the two gentlemen had arrived at a pretty clear understanding.
Within a few weeks of the foregoing conversation, the attention of every one in the kingdom who was likely to have money to invest—especially country clergymen and ladies of independent means—was directed to the prospectus of the Great Company, Limited, the object of this corporation being to purchase from Messrs. Walker & Guttschwindel, of Chicago and London, all their rights in the Great Indian Remedy,

ed by post a bottle of Watha, but denied that he had taken any of the Remedy.

"I need scarcely ask a soldier like yourself whether he is usually in pretty good health?"

His lordship said he was.

"And do you think the doctors much, in general way, I suppose?"

The great soldier shook his head, and the spectators tittered.

"Now, have you taken any other medicine since you received ours?"

"I believe not."

"That will do, thank you."

The defendant then put a few questions to Lord Doughty, Mr. Walker next called Lord Barry Charlesford.

"Really there was some limit to this," said Mr. Justice Littleknapp. "You must have sent bottles of your stuff to everybody in London."

"I believe I have, my lord," observed the unabashed Mr. Walker, "but I cannot have them all here to give evidence."

"My lord," replied the plaintiff, "I only propose to call a few individuals whose position places their evidence above suspicion."

"What do you mean by a few individuals?" inquired the Judge.

"Let me see," Mr. Walker said, referring to the list of names, "I have eminent ministers of different denominations, the lesses of Drury Lane Theatre, the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, half-dozen members of the Royal Society, the Post Laureate, the chairman of the Metropolitan Rail—"

"My Lord, if it will save the time of the court," interposed Dr. Fripp, "if an inquiry willing to be made, I will allow gentlemen who have swallowed the plaintiff's mixture, and that they are still alive."

"Very proper. That is quite enough for you at present," said the judge.

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